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Claims Listing

1. (original) A saw comprising:

a base assembly with a top surface;

a fence assembly mounted to the base assembly with a front surface positioned above the top surface of the base assembly, the front surface of the fence assembly and the top surface of the base assembly cooperating to support a workpiece thereon;

a saw support assembly rotatably mounted to the base assembly to rotate relative to the base assembly about a first rotational axis; a saw unit having a saw blade capable of turning to cut a workpiece, the saw blade defining a cutting plane that is approximately parallel to the first rotational axis, the saw unit supported by the saw support assembly above the top surface so that the saw blade may be moved relative to the base assembly by a user into a workpiece resting on the top surface of the base assembly to make a cut, the saw unit and the saw support assembly rotating together about the first rotational axis to adjust the bevel angle of the saw blade; and

a bevel angle locking actuator mounted to the saw support assembly, wherein the bevel angle locking actuator rotates in unison with the saw support assembly about the first rotational axis when the bevel angle of the saw blade is adjusted, and wherein the bevel angle can be adjusted by a user when the bevel angle locking actuator is in an unlocked position and the bevel angle cannot be adjusted by a user when the bevel angle locking actuator is in a locked position.

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2. (original) The saw of claim 1 wherein:

pivoting the bevel angle locking actuator to its locked position causes a surface of the saw support assembly to be moved against a surface of the base assembly to increase the pressure between the surfaces, the increased pressure resulting in increased friction which resists rotation of the saw support assembly relative to the base assembly.

3. (original) The saw of claim 1 wherein:

the bevel angle locking actuator is pivotally mounted to the saw support assembly to pivot about an axis approximately normal to the first rotational axis, the bevel angle locking actuator pivoting relative to the saw support assembly between its locked position and unlocked position.

4. (original) The saw of claim 1 wherein:

the bevel angle locking actuator is pivotally mounted to the saw support assembly and pivots about a pivoting axis relative to the saw support assembly between its locked position and unlocked position.

5. (original) The saw of claim 4 further comprising:

an eccentric surface eccentrically formed from the pivoting axis of the bevel angle locking actuator, the eccentric surface being operatively connected to the bevel angle locking actuator; and

a linkage;

wherein pivoting of the bevel angle locking actuator to the locked position causes the eccentric surface to pivot, the pivoting of the eccentric surface driving a

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movement of the linkage, the movement of the linkage pushing a surface of the saw support assembly against a surface of the base assembly to lock the bevel angle.

6-28. (canceled).

29. (original) The saw of claim 1 wherein the bevel angle locking actuator comprises an elongated lever.

30. (original) The saw of claim 29 wherein the elongated lever is formed from stamped sheet metal.

31. (original) The saw of claim 29 wherein the saw support assembly comprises a lower arm, and when the bevel angle locking actuator is in the locked position, the elongated lever extends generally parallel to the lower arm.

32-51. (canceled).

52. (original) A saw comprising:

a base assembly;

a saw unit having a saw blade turning about a second rotational axis to cut a workpiece;

a saw support assembly rotatably mounted to the base assembly, the saw support assembly rotating relative to the base assembly about a first rotational axis to adjust the bevel angle of the saw blade, and the saw support assembly supporting the saw unit and pivoting the saw unit to plunge the saw blade into a workpiece resting on the base assembly;

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a bevel locking lever pivotally mounted to the saw support assembly, the bevel locking lever pivoting relative to the saw support assembly about a third rotational axis not parallel with the first rotational axis.

53. (original) The saw of claim 52 wherein the third rotational axis is approximately perpendicular to the first rotational axis.

54. (original) A saw comprising:

a base assembly;

a saw unit having a saw blade;

a saw support assembly rotatably mounted to the base assembly, the saw support assembly supporting the saw unit and pivoting the saw unit to plunge the saw blade into a workpiece resting on the base assembly, the saw support assembly rotating relative to the base assembly about a first rotational axis to adjust the bevel angle of the saw blade;

a bevel locking linkage which translates in a direction normal to the first rotational axis, the translation of the bevel locking linkage causing the saw support assembly to be pushed against the base assembly creating friction which prevents relative rotation.